

# Crime Victims Deserve a Helping Hand



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**Victims of Crime  
Compensation Board**

50 Park Place  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
Tel. 1-877-NJ VCCB1  
(1-877-658-2221)  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)





## *M*ission     *S*tatement

*The New Jersey Victims of  
Crime Compensation Board  
provides compensation to innocent  
victims of violent crime for some  
of the expenses they suffer as a  
result of the crime. In carrying  
out it's mission, the VCCB is  
mindful of the special needs of  
those victimized by crime and  
their right to be treated with  
fairness, compassion and respect.*

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## **What is Crime Victims' Compensation?**

The Victims of Crime Compensation Board (VCCB) reimburses innocent victims of violent crime for some of the expenses they suffer as a result of the crime.

## **Do all crime victims get paid?**

While the New Jersey VCCB does try to help any victim that qualifies under our law, benefits may be reduced or not paid at all if the victim participated in the crime or contributed to their injuries, did not submit all necessary and accurate information to the VCCB, or if the victim participated in an illegal activity which contributed to the victim's injury or death. There are several other reasons why compensation may not be paid which must be considered by the Board before it can pay your expenses.



## What crimes are covered?

If you are a victim of one of the following crimes you are eligible for compensation by the VCCB:

**Assault      Child Abuse**  
**Homicide      Domestic Violence**  
**Kidnapping      Hit and Run**  
**Sexual Assault**

## If I qualify, what can you pay?

Up to \$25,000 in benefits are awarded upon approval of a claim.

These are some of the expenses that can be paid.

- Psychological counseling.
- Loss of support or earnings.
- Hospital, physician and physical therapy.
- Nursing care.
- Care of child or dependent.
- Funeral expenses up to \$5,000.
- Attorney fees for assistance in filing a claim and representing you in the appeal process.
- Relocation expenses.

These losses are not covered:

- Property damage or loss, except for crime scene cleanup.
- Pain and suffering.



## How do I get financial help?

If you are a victim or claimant (person filing for a victim), you must show that:

- The crime happened in this state, or happened in another state and you are a resident of New Jersey, and was reported to law enforcement within 3 months, if possible.
- You or your immediate family member have incurred, or will incur, medical, counseling, funeral bills and/or lost time from work because of injuries directly resulting from the crime.
- You submitted this application within 2 years of the date of the crime, if possible.
- Insurance and other payment sources will not cover the bills submitted.

Applications for compensation are available in the following locations:

- Police Departments
- Hospitals
- Prosecutors' Offices
- Funeral Homes

The Victim Witness Coordinator in the prosecutors office can be very helpful. They can help you complete the application. You can also receive an application from the VCCB by calling 1-877-NJ VCCB1. The Board has staff available during business hours (8:00am to 4:30pm) to answer any questions you may have.



## **What can I do if I do not agree with the VCCB's decision?**

You have the right to file an appeal if you do not agree with the decision of the VCCB. Within 20 days of receiving the decision, you must notify the VCCB that you wish to appeal and state the reason why you disagree with the VCCB's decision. A hearing will be scheduled where you will have the right to be represented by an attorney. If you do not have an attorney the VCCB can provide you with one.

The information contained in this brochure is taken from our current rules and regulations. Depending on the date the crime occurred, there might be different requirements and benefits.